

BOATING & SAFETY

The purpose of this brochure is to provide a quick reference guide for safe and enjoyable boating. It includes weather tips, safety reminders, and resource information. While a good deal of important information is offered here, there is no substitute for common sense, local knowledge, and good seamanship practices.



It is recommended that boaters wear life jackets at all times while underway.



CINMS

Additional critical information about anchoring, cold water survival, and first aid for hypothermia can be found in the following free publications. These should be kept for reference on your vessel.

- **ABC's of California Boating Law**
- **Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boaters**

These publications are available at most marine supply stores and online at www.dbw.ca.gov and www.uscgboating.org. See inside for additional helpful materials.

Santa Barbara Channel Weather

Before going boating, become aware of the dynamic weather patterns in the Santa Barbara Channel. There are many sources available to obtain this information. These sources include: newspapers, radio, TV, Web sites, information kiosks, the VHF/FM marine radio, and the Oxnard National Weather Service office.

www.nwsia.noaa.gov

NWS Public Information:
(805) 988-6610

Marine Weather Radio CH 3
for marine weather only

www.channelislands.noaa.gov

Weather Kiosks located at Santa Barbara and Channel Island Harbors



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Always be aware that the weather in the Channel Islands is in a continuous state of change. Fog and winds are a challenge to the most experienced boaters. Year round, expect fog if visibility is decreasing or there is a sudden drop in temperature when the winds are light and the sky is clear.

From November through April, expect high winds with clear skies and good visibility when the wind is warm and out of the northeast. Also, when the wind shifts to the northwest, expect high winds. Generally, the sky will initially be cloudy with restricted visibility; look for a cold northwest wind to rise with clearing skies and good visibility.

The prevailing wind blows from the west to northwest throughout the year. It typically blows between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. The average speed is 10 to 20 mph.



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UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS,
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www.usps.org/ventura/
(888) 367-8777



**NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™**

CHANNEL ISLANDS

www.channelislands.noaa.gov

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR OFFICE

113 Harbor Way, Suite 150
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
(805) 966-7107

CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR OFFICE

3600 South Harbor Blvd., Suite 217
Oxnard, CA 93035
(805) 382-6149



**COUNTY OF VENTURA
HARBOR DEPARTMENT**

3900 Pelican Way
Oxnard, CA 93035
(805) 382-3001
www.countyofventura.org



**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
VISITOR CENTER**

1901 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 658-5730
www.nps.gov/chis

Ship Traffic Lanes Pose Danger!

Up to 300 large vessels per week travel at any hour, night and day, seven days a week, in the merchant shipping lanes located between the Channel Islands and the coast. Some important facts to note are:

- The northbound and southbound lanes are one mile wide, separated from each other by two miles.
- The speed of modern cargo vessels can exceed 30 knots. In an emergency, a large ship can take more than two miles to stop.
- These ships pose a danger to any smaller vessel in the channel.
- These ships travel internationally and there is no assurance that the ship's bridge officer is aware of pleasure boat traffic or has good English language communication skills.
- There is a blind zone in front of these large ships due to their height, their radar's position, and the position of their command bridge.

- Communication with these ships can be made on VHF/FM marine radio channel 13 or 16.

It is up to the boater to be aware of this large vessel hazard when crossing the shipping lanes. To minimize transit time in these dangerous areas, cross at a right angle to the direction to the traffic lane and well astern of any cargo vessels, if sea state conditions permit. Refer to a current marine navigation chart for details.



Boat Communication: Using the VHF/FM Marine Radio

Channel 16 is the hailing and distress channel for this area. Boaters should use VHF CH 16 in an emergency.

- Monitor Channel 16 at all times.
- Don't transmit on Channel 16 when the Coast Guard is using it, unless there is an immediate personal danger.
- Calling another vessel for any reason on Channel 16 when no one else is using it **is** permitted. State the other vessel's name three times followed by the name of your vessel (and call signs if available.) Wait one minute to repeat. After three tries without a response, stop the calling sequence for a while. When the call is answered, agree with the other boat to switch to another channel, such as 68, 69, 71, or 72. No radio checks on Channel 16.



Transmitting Distress Calls

When grave and imminent danger threatens life or property and immediate help is required, transmit the **MAYDAY** call on **Channel 16**. Start the call by repeating **MAYDAY** three times. Once you have made contact, communicate your boat name, position (latitude and longitude, or distance from known geographical point), problem, type of assistance needed, number of people on board (and if any are injured), safety equipment on board, and identifying characteristics of your vessel (length, type, color). Monitor Channel 16 for a response.

For non-life-threatening situations such as:

- Running out of fuel
- Mechanical breakdown

Transmit a **PAN-PAN** (pronounced PON-PON) **URGENCY** call on Channel 16. Start the call by repeating **PAN-PAN** three times. Once you have made contact, communicate your boat name, position (latitude and longitude, or distance from known geographical point), and type of assistance required or problem. Identify a listening frequency and monitor that channel. Cancel **PAN-PAN** when urgency has been resolved on Channel 16.

SECURITE (pronounced say-cure-ee-tay) — this will be broadcast when there are obstructions to safe boating in an area.

24 Hour Emergency Telephone Numbers:

Use the following telephone numbers, if necessary:

U.S. Coast Guard
Search & Rescue
805-985-9822

Channel Islands Har-
bor Patrol
805-382-3000

Ventura
Harbor Patrol
805-642-8618

Port Hueneme
Wharfinger
805-488-4615

Santa Barbara
Harbor Patrol
805-564-5530

Divers Alert
Network (DAN)
919-684-8111



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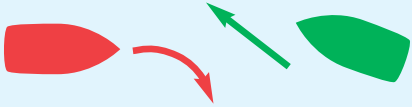







BASIC RULES OF THE ROAD WHISTLE SIGNALS

PORT (Left) SHORT BLAST: 1 second PROLONGED BLAST: 4 – 6 seconds STARBOARD (Right)

DANGER SIGNAL: (five or more rapid short blasts.) Alarm or emergency. Also used to indicate that other vessel's signal or intentions are not understood; or that conditions prevent immediate compliance with signals.

DANGER ZONE: From Dead Ahead to 112.5 degrees on the Starboard Beam. Vessels in this zone of your boat are **STAND-ON** and have the right of way. Vessels approaching, but not in your **DANGER ZONE**, are **GIVE-WAY** and must give way.

SITUATION	SIGNAL
If you cannot determine whether vessels are MEETING or CROSSING :	ONE SHORT BLAST. Assume vessels are MEETING . Both turn right and pass PORT to PORT .
If you cannot determine whether you are OVERTAKING or CROSSING :	Assume you are OVERTAKING . Keep clear and initiate Overtaking rules.
Emerging from slip or leaving dock:	ONE PROLONGED BLAST (Warning signal).
Engine in reverse, vessel backing:	THREE SHORT BLASTS.
CROSSING: 	STAND-ON VESSEL—ONE SHORT BLAST: Maintain speed and course. GIVE-WAY VESSEL—ONE SHORT BLAST: Turn right and pass astern, slow down or stop until STAND-ON vessel passes.
MEETING HEAD ON or slightly STARBOARD : 	ONE SHORT BLAST exchanged by both vessels. Both turn right and pass PORT to PORT .
MEETING PORT to PORT: 	ONE SHORT BLAST to be exchanged by both vessels. Pass PORT to PORT . Turn right for clearance if necessary.
OVERTAKING and PASSING on lead vessel's STARBOARD side: 	ONE SHORT BLAST. Proceed only if lead vessel answers with ONE SHORT BLAST . Reply of danger signal (five or more rapid short blasts) indicates it is unsafe to pass at this time.
OVERTAKING and PASSING on lead vessel's PORT side: 	TWO SHORT BLASTS. Proceed only if lead vessel answers with TWO SHORT BLASTS . Reply of danger signal (five or more rapid short blasts) indicates it is unsafe to pass at this time.
MEETING STARBOARD to STARBOARD: 	TWO SHORT BLASTS exchanged by both vessels. Pass Starboard to Starboard ONLY IF THERE IS ENOUGH ROOM FOR SAFE CLEARANCE WITHOUT CHANGING COURSE.



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CINMS



CINMS



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Fueling Safety

- Don't smoke
- Ventilate bilge
- Turn off all engines
- Avoid spilling fuel
- Extinguish stove, lanterns, and flames
- Turn off battery selector switch
- Close all hatches and windows before beginning to fuel
- Keep hose nozzle in contact with fill pipe. Stand by, watch fill nozzle.
- Remove portable gas tanks from boat before filling
- Keep fire extinguisher handy



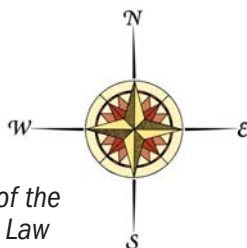
Mandatory Safety Equipment

- Fire extinguishers fully charged
- Three hand-held flares
- Throw device (ring, horseshoe buoy, floating seat cushion, etc.)
- One personal flotation device (PFD) for each person onboard (all must have a proper sized PFD.) Children under 12 years of age must wear on boats 26 feet or less.
- Horn, whistle, or sounding device



Recommended Equipment

- Basic tools and spare parts
- Bailer, hand/foot pump
- Anchor and line length in excess of 100 feet
- One 36" X 36" orange international distress flag
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Marine radio
- Reference: *ABC's of the California Boating Law*



Improve Your Boating Skills

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**Ventura Power Squadron invites family and friends to their
SAFE BOATING COURSE**

Learn About:

- Boat Handling & Seamanship • Needed Equipment
- Rules of the Road • Lines & Knots • Charts & Aids to Navigation
- Engine Troubleshooting • Boat Trailing • And much more!

Visit the Ventura Power Squadron website at:

www.usps.org/ventura/

Or call: **1-888-367-8777**

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Eastern

Vessel Safety Check

The Vessel Safety Check program is a free check of a vessel's equipment for compliance with federal, state, and local safety requirements. This inspection is not connected with any law enforcement agency or organization. It is for each boater's safety awareness and education. Some of the items checked are:

- Proper display of numbers
- Registration / Documentation
- Personal Flotation Devices
- Visual Distress Signals
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Control
- Sound Producing Devices
- Navigation Lights
- Marine Sanitation Devices
- Overall Vessel Condition



CONTACTS:

US Power Squadron

www.usps.org/ventura/

1-800-SEA-SKIL (1-800-732-7545)

1-888-367-8777

USCG Auxiliary

www.uscgaux.org

1-800-869 SAIL (7245)

BoatUS Course Line

www.boatus.com/courseline

1-800-336-2628



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NOTE: Use caution when approaching a boat with a dive flag. Maintain a distance of at least 100 yards.

CHANNEL ISLANDS...

The Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary were designated in 1980, encompassing San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara islands and the waters surrounding them. The park consists of 250,000 acres of land and ocean environment out to one mile from the islands. The sanctuary extends from mean high tide to six nautical miles around the islands, encompassing 1,470 square miles of ocean habitat. Together, the park and sanctuary protect a wealth of natural and cultural resources, increase awareness through public education, conduct monitoring and research, and offer visitors numerous recreational opportunities that include boating to secluded anchorages, fishing, scuba diving, kayaking, and exploring over 175 miles of coastline.

Landing on the Islands

- There are no all-weather anchorages around the islands. One capable person should stay on board the boat at all times. Boaters are responsible for any damage to the resources caused by their boat.
 - Private boaters may land on all five islands within the national park year round. To protect wildlife, landing is prohibited on all offshore rocks and islets.
 - There are no landing permits required for the Channel Islands, except for the Nature Conservancy property on Santa Cruz Island. Please refer to the Channel Islands National Park newspaper and Web site for closed and restricted areas (see contact information on front of this brochure).
 - Boaters should contact the park ranger on Channel 16 before landing.

Pumpout Facilities

In order to protect the health of our waterways, boaters should use the pumpout facilities listed below. **Do not pump oily bilge discharge or sewage into the sanctuary.**

PUMPOUT LOCATIONS:

Channel Islands Harbor

Peninsula Park Dock
East Channel Day Dock
Harbormasters Dock
Seabridge Marina F Dock

Ventura Harbor

Ventura Isle Marina G Dock
Ventura West Marina B Dock
Ventura West Marina C Dock
Harbor Village Fuel Dock
Harbor Village I Dock

Santa Barbara Harbor

Launch Ramp
Fuel Dock
Marina 1A Walkway
Marina 10P Walkway
Marina 1RS Walkway

Call **1-800-CLEANUP** for information on proper disposal of hazardous materials.

Bilge pumpout and used oil collection:

Channel Islands Harbormasters Dock
Santa Barbara Harbor Fuel Dock

Recreational Fishing

Anyone 16 years and older must have a sport fishing license to take any kind of fish, mollusk, invertebrate or crustacean in California. Additionally, an Ocean Enhancement Stamp is required for ocean fishing south of Point Arguello, except when fishing under the authority of a two-day sport fishing license. No fishing is allowed in Marine Reserves and limited take is allowed in Marine Conservation Areas (see Marine Protected Areas map on reverse side).

Refer to the current ocean sport fishing regulation booklet for complete information on regulations, including seasonal and area closures, size limits, bag limits, gear restrictions, protected species and fillet requirements. Pick up a copy of regulations wherever fishing licenses are sold or contact:

California Department of Fish and Game

Marine Region Headquarters
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 94025
(831) 649-2870

View the regulations online at: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine



A WORLD TO DISCOVER

Watching Wildlife

Several species of seabirds and marine mammals use these areas for nesting and breeding. Seabirds are easily disrupted and may leave their nests if disturbed which could lead to breeding failure for the entire season.

Under federal law, it is illegal to disturb or harass seabirds, seals and sea lions. Harassment may be interpreted as any action that modifies the behavior of birds and mammals.

Boaters and kayakers need to be aware of seabirds nesting on rocky sea ledges and in sea caves at the Channel Islands. Ashy storm-petrels nest from April through December and Xantus's murrelets nest from January through March. Both species are present year round and lay their eggs on rocks, where they can be crushed by people walking around in sea caves.

Please observe the marine mammal viewing "code of conduct" by remaining at least 100 yards from marine mammals. If approached by a whale, put the engine in neutral and allow the whale to pass. Boat movement should be from the rear of a whale. Federal law prohibits pursuit of marine mammals.

Some Wildlife Watching Guidelines Include:

- Keep your distance and stay in your kayak when visiting sea caves.
- Do not touch any animal even if it appears to be sick, injured, or orphaned.
- Never feed wild animals.
- Do not use food, calls, whistles, decoys, or other artificial means to attract wildlife.
- Leave pets at home—they may startle, chase, and even kill wildlife.
- Help others to become responsible wildlife watchers or tour operators.
- Never get between wildlife and a seaward escape route.
- Respect the rights of landowners.
- Take only memories and leave only footprints.
- Share the joy of wildlife viewing with others, especially children, and teach them about the importance of not disturbing wildlife or the habitats they depend upon for survival.



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OTHER HELPFUL MATERIALS



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Survey charts 18720, 18721, 18725, 18727, 18728, 18729, and 18756

Detailed boating information on the channel and the islands may be obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard's "Local Notice to Mariners." Contact Coast Guard-Long Beach at (310) 980-4300 ext. 509 or online at the USCG 11th District's Web site, <http://www.uscg.mil/d11/>

Cruising guides to the islands are available at marine supply stores.

Sanctuary and Park Regulations You Should Know¹

The following activities are prohibited:

- Discharging or depositing any material into the sanctuary. General exceptions: treated sewage from a Coast Guard approved Type I or II marine sanitation device (MSD)*; vessel engine/generator exhaust or cooling water, biodegradable graywater* (e.g., galley, bath and shower water) or deck wash down; fish or chumming materials during lawful fishing.
*NOTES— Discharge of untreated sewage and food wastes is prohibited, and MSDs must be locked to prevent sewage discharge. *For large vessels (300+ gross registered tons) additional restrictions apply – see channelislands.noaa.gov.*
- Possessing, disturbing or harassing sea turtles, seabirds, seals, sea lions, whales, or dolphins. Harassment includes any action that modifies the animal's behavior.
- Removing or damaging, or attempting to remove or damage, historical or cultural resources from the sanctuary, including shipwrecks and archaeological artifacts.
- Operating motorized personal watercraft within 1 mile around any island. (e.g., Sea-Doo®, JetSki®).
- Taking resources within state or federal marine reserves and conservation areas (see maps for details). Resources include both living marine life and non-living resources, such as rocks, sand, shells, etc.
- Drilling, dredging, constructing on, or otherwise altering the sanctuary's seabed, except for navigational aids, anchoring vessels or for lawful fishing. Also, abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on or in sanctuary's seabed (e.g., intentionally leaving a sunken vessel, or research equipment).
- Releasing introduced species into the sanctuary, except striped bass released during catch and release fishing.
- Tampering with sanctuary signs.
- Pets are not allowed on the islands.
- Fires, fireworks, explosives, carrying or using firearms is prohibited and no fires are allowed on island beaches. No camping allowed on island beaches except seasonally by permit on Santa Rosa Island.

¹ This is a partial and abridged summary of regulations, which are subject to change. You are responsible for knowing the rules. For a full listing of sanctuary regulations refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 15 sec. 922.70-922.74, or call the sanctuary office at (805) 966-7107, or visit channelislands.noaa.gov. For park regulations, refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 and the superintendent's compendium. Visit www.nps.gov/chis/ for a complete list of regulations, or call the park office at (805) 658-5700. Also be aware that you must comply with all other laws and regulations.



Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas

The California State Fish and Game Commission and National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration established 13 marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Channel Islands. The 13 MPAs form a network that covers approximately 240 square nautical miles and 21 percent of sanctuary waters. Eleven MPAs are no-take marine reserves, where no extractive activities, such as fishing, are allowed. Two MPAs are marine conservation areas allowing recreational fishing for lobster and pelagic fish such as anchovy, herring, and mackerel. One of these areas also allows commercial lobster trapping. The Channel Islands MPA network is currently the largest system of no-take marine reserves in the continental U.S. Nearly 80 percent of the sanctuary remains open to fishing, in accordance with state and federal fishing regulations. Please refer to the map to the right which indicates the MPA boundaries.

Anacapa Brown Pelican Fledgling Area and State Ecological Reserve Areas:

There is a California Brown Pelican fledgling area on the north side of West Anacapa out to depths of 120 feet. Entry is prohibited from January 1 to October 31.

Shore fishing is prohibited on San Miguel Island.

Port Hueneme Safety Fairway:
See Port Hueneme chart 18725 for restrictions.

For more specific information contact:

Department of Fish and Game
(916) 653-7664
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/

